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		Application Number	10/717,851
		Filing Date	November 19, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Quin Soderquist
		Art Unit	3616
		Examiner Name	George D. Spisich
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	3	Attorney Docket Number	14291

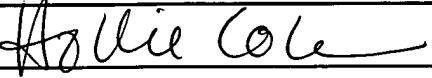
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Autoliv ASP, Inc.		
Signature			
Printed name	Sally Brown		
Date	January 31, 2006	Reg. No.	37,788

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Appl. No. 10/717,851
Response dated January 31, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 9, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/717,851 Confirmation No.: 1718
Applicant : Quin Soderquist
Title : APPLIQUE FILM AIRBAG COVER
Filed : November 19, 2003
TC/A.U. : 3616
Examiner : George D. Spisich
Docket No. : 14291

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed January 9, 2005. The Examiner has required an election between species I (purportedly found in Figure 2) and species II (purportedly found in Figure 3). In accordance with this requirement, Applicant elects species I as found in Figure 2. Applicant believes that at least claims 1, 5-8, 10-16, 20-22, 24-31, 34-38, and 40-43 are readable on this elected species.

This present election is made with traverse. Specifically, Applicants submit that the imposition of such a restriction requirement is improper and that all of the independent claims are indeed generic and cover both the embodiment disclosed in Figure 2 and the embodiment disclosed in Figure 3. The present invention relates to a novel type of airbag cover that includes a "unitary appliqué film" (or, in the case of claim 43, an unitary appliqué film means). As defined by the specification:

The appliqué film 14 of the present invention is unitary. This means that the appliqué film 14 may be formed from a single,

integraphically formed piece of material or from a plurality of pieces of material or layers attached together.

Specification, p. 14, lines 10-13. Thus, based upon the clear disclosure of the specification, Applicant is using the term “unitary appliqué film” to include both embodiments with only one layer of material (*see Figure 2*) and embodiments having a plurality of layers attached together (*see Figure 3*). As such, the embodiments shown in Figures 2 and 3 are not patentably distinct, but are variants of a single invention.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that the Examiner’s interpretation of the embodiment shown in Figure 3 is imprecise and that this imprecision leads to this erroneous restriction requirement. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that “Figure 3[] [is] drawn to an airbag cover having multiple layers and a bulging tear area that disconnects the layers of the back side of the airbag cover.” As taught by the application, the inclusion of this “bulging tear area”—or as defined in the specification, the “local peak”—does not necessarily have to be present in the embodiment of Figure 3. Rather, this “local peak” is an additional feature recited and claimed in dependent claims 9, 23, 39. The fact that this “local peak” does not necessarily have to be present in the embodiment of Figure 3 means that the only difference between the embodiments of Figures 2 and 3 is the number of layers used in the airbag cover. Clearly, under the definitions given above, the term “unitary appliqué film” includes embodiments with only one layer of material and embodiments having a plurality of layers attached together.

Accordingly, there is no basis which would support the present restriction requirement and as such, this requirement is respectfully traversed. Withdrawal of this restriction requirement is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this election response that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Appl. No. 10/717,851
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Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney for Applicants

Date: January 31, 2006

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